



Bob Dole (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

— **Then there's the anti-endorsement: Bob Dole said yesterday that Republicans would suffer "cataclysmic" and "wholesale losses" if Cruz wins the nomination.** The former Senate leader argued that Trump would perform better in the general election and probably have better relations with Congress as president because "he's kind of a deal-maker." The comments, [made to the New York Times](#), drew more attention than when Dole came out for Bush last year. And they came a day after Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, another fixture of the Republican establishment who is officially neutral, [publicly said he wants Cruz to lose](#) his state. Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) has also previously expressed disdain for Cruz, but she's stayed neutral ahead of the primary and kept a low profile because she faces a tough reelection battle this year and cannot afford to alienate his supporters.

Dave Carney, a top GOP strategist in New Hampshire, said **there are two kinds of endorsements.** When a senator or a governor backs a candidate, it may prompt voters to give someone a second look or bring with it an organization to help field efforts. Then

there's the celebrity endorsement. When someone like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Oprah visits an early state, it helps build a crowd to hear the candidate make his pitch. Palin would be more in the latter category. "If you hate Washington and think everything there sucks, having Mitch McConnell endorse someone is not so good," said Carney, who is unaligned in 2016. "If there's anything we know for close to a fact this cycle, it's that the status quo isn't going to cut out."

— **UCLA political scientist Lynn Vavreck, who has done research on the impact of endorsements, argues that they still matter a great deal and have not this year only because the establishment [did not coalesce](#) behind one contender early on.** "It's the power of the cumulative sum of all the endorsements," she said. "It matters less who they are now than how many they are. ... The pace of endorsements in 2016 has been slow. ... If all the Republican governors came out tomorrow and said, 'All of us are all in on Kasich,' that would mean something. ... They're not doing what they could have done, and that's why it's not having any affect."

— **In this climate, endorsements from activists can be more powerful than from elected officials.** Iowa Republican National Committeeman Steve Scheffler thinks, for example, that Phyllis Schlafly's support for Trump a few weeks ago was actually more consequential than Palin's because the 91-year-old has a deep reservoir of credibility with social conservatives. He told [Yahoo News](#) that it sent the signal that "maybe it's safe for them to go ahead and support Trump."

— **A final factor: the endorsement process in the early states has become tragically transactional.** It's a poorly-kept secret that many prominent "activists" get compensated by the candidates they support to be "consultants." Ex-Iowa state Sen. Kent Sorenson, for example, defected from Michele Bachmann to Ron Paul ahead of the 2012 caucuses [in exchange for cash payments](#). Social conservative activist Sam Clovis [withdrew](#) his support for Rick Perry last year when he stopped being able to pay. Then he [signed](#) with Trump. Stories about these kinds of deals, which abound, undercut the legitimacy of all endorsements in the minds of savvy voters.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost**'s morning newsletter. [Sign up to receive the newsletter.](#)
With contributions from [Michael Smith](#).

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— **The Obama administration will announce as early as today its plan to introduce new visa requirements for European travelers who are dual nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Syria, or who have visited any of these countries in the last five years,** the Associated Press reports. “U.S. officials and congressional aides involved in discussions say the Homeland Security Department will outline how it will phase in the new rule, designed to make it harder for Europeans who have fought for the Islamic State to enter the United States.”

— **A fresh [WBUR poll](#) shows that Sanders and Kasich would benefit the most from a strong independent turnout in the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 9.** One-third of independents in the state are undecided — and they don't have to make their minds up about whether to vote in the Democratic or Republican primary until the day of the vote. But they're poised to have a significant impact: among indies who've made up their mind, 29 percent plan to pull the opposite ballot from 2008, the last open presidential contest. Those who benefit *the least* from indies voting in their primary? Trump, Cruz and Clinton.

— **Vladimir Putin most likely personally approved the fatal poisoning of a former KGB operative-turned-U.K. intelligence agent at a London hotel, according to a new British report.** ([Griff Witte](#))

— **Militants attacked a police checkpoint in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and killed five policemen.** ([AP](#))

GET SMART FAST:



Obama chats with members of the Michigan congressional delegation on the tarmac in snowy Detroit. (petesouza)

1. **President Obama** is mulling whether to use his executive authority to require federal contractors to disclose political contributions they make to independent groups. (Juliet Eilperin)
2. There are now fewer than 11 million **illegal immigrants** in the U.S., the lowest number since 2003. (Jerry Markon)

3. Senate Democrats filibustered a bill to prevent the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi **refugees** in the U.S. after **Mitch McConnell** declined to allow a show vote on **Trump's** Muslim ban proposal, which would have put Republicans in a tough spot. ([Karoun Demirjian](#))
4. 2015 was officially **the hottest year on record**, coming in 0.23 degrees Fahrenheit higher than 2014. ([Chris Mooney and Joby Warrick](#))
5. The biggest hold-up on **criminal justice reform** continues to be *mens rea*. Some advocates want to force prosecutors to prove defendants willfully broke the law, which would let more criminals off and is a poison pill for key Democrats. ([Mike DeBonis](#))
6. **Attorney General Loretta Lynch** said the government needs to hire hundreds more employees to perform background checks for gun purchases because the demand is so high. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
7. The **Supreme Court** sounded torn during oral arguments about whether an **Alaska** man violated the law by using a hovercraft on federal land. ([Robert Barnes](#))
8. A former **White House** supervisor was charged with embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money by manipulating an employee's time-card sheets. ([Ann E. Marimow](#))
9. A freelance journalist working for **Voice of America** was killed by an air strike in **Yemen**. ([Joe Davidson](#))
10. A **St. Paul** police sergeant apologized for a Facebook post he wrote that encouraged people to run over **Black Lives Matter** protesters with their cars. ([Pioneer Press](#))
11. The board that oversees the **Academy Awards** will meet today to discuss ways they could diversify the nominees. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
12. **WalMart** will increase wages for 1.2 million employees next month. ([Sarah Halzack](#))
13. The **Buffalo Bills** hired the **NFL's** first full-time *female* assistant coach. ([Buffalo News](#))

14. **Cam Newton** was named NFL MVP by the Pro Football Writers Association. The AP's MVP awarded won't be announced until the day before the Super Bowl. ([Des Beiler](#))

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. A longtime aide to **Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.)**, **Fred Pagan**, was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for allowing his home to be used as a “stash house” for meth. ([Spencer S. Hsu](#))
2. **Bill Clinton's** presidential library will release 500 pages of records related to **Trump**, including interactions the **Trump Organization** had with the White House from 1993 to 2001. ([Politico](#))
3. **Hillary** reiterated she never sent or received classified emails as Secretary of State in [an interview with NPR](#) and suggested the intelligence community's inspector general is motivated by politics to come after her.
4. At the **U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting** in Washington, **Rahm Emanuel** largely avoided talking about the anger in Chicago over his handling over a white police officer fatally shooting Laquan McDonald. ([William Wan's story](#); [Dana Milbank's column](#))
5. **Scott Walker** is signaling strongly that he will run for reelection as governor of Wisconsin in 2018. That could position him to make another run for president in 2020. ([The Journal Sentinel reports on his State of the State.](#))
6. The **DSCC** will endorse **Deborah Ross** to be the Democratic candidate in North Carolina against Sen. **Richard Burr**.

THE REPUBLICAN RACE—

— **Trump held a 20-point lead over Cruz in a New Hampshire poll from CNN and WMUR. Jeb and Marco tied for third with 10 percent.** A Monmouth national poll put Trump in first with 36%, down from 41% last month. Cruz is second at 17%, up from 14%

last month. Rubio garners 11% support, similar to his 10% showing in December. Everyone else is in single digits.

— **Bush and Rubio have spent a combined \$91 million via their campaigns and outside groups**, according to SMG Delta. By comparison, **Trump and Cruz have spent just over \$8 million on ads**. That's an 11-to-1 ratio. (NBC's Mark Murray has [the full breakdown](#).)

— **Stat du jour: \$22.5 million has now been spent on commercials attacking Rubio**, according to a Rubio ally tracking the air war. The spots, largely from the Bush super PAC, have not taken a toll on his numbers. The breakdown is \$8.3 million in Iowa, \$7.4 million in New Hampshire and \$2.6 million in South Carolina.

— **Last night in Hollis, N.H., Cruz invoked Dole's comments that Trump would be a better president than him to make the case that the establishment is for Donald**. "Right now the establishment is abandoning Marco Rubio," said Cruz. "They're making the assessment that Marco can't win this race, and the Washington establishment is rushing over to support Trump. We're seeing that every day. And Mr. Trump is welcoming the support of the Washington establishment." ([David Weigel](#))

— **A group calling itself Americans United for Values is running attack ads in Iowa that call Cruz "a false prophet," per Politico**.

— **Senior aides to Cruz say they have no plans to go after Trump on television, the New York Times reports**.

— **In Tulsa, Palin managed to connect her son Track's arrest for domestic violence to Obama's record on veterans issues**. "When my own son is going through what he goes through coming back, I can certainly relate to the families who...feel these ramifications of PTSD," she told the rowdy crowd of around 8,000 people. "And it makes me realize more than ever it is now or never for the sake of America's finest that we have a commander-in-chief who will respect them." ([Jose A. DelReal](#))

— **Mark Levin has turned ice cold on Trump.** Last night, the conservative radio host said The Donald is “Nixonian,” running an “Alinskyite” campaign and lying about Cruz’s loans from Goldman. “If he becomes the nominee, a lot of people who otherwise would unite under that tent may not, because when you run a campaign of personal attacks, an Alinskyite campaign, wittingly or unwittingly, you turn people off.” ([Mediaite has the audio from his show.](#))

— **Last night in Keene, N.H., Jeb blasted Rubio and Cruz for being “all over the map” on national security,** including Syria. ([Watch](#))

SANDERS VS. CLINTON—



Hillary Clinton in Burlington, Iowa, yesterday. (Reuters/Aaron P. Bernstein)

— **Leading voices in the Democratic Party, including Planned Parenthood and the Human Right Campaign, slammed Sanders – for describing them as part of the Democratic establishment.** “I was somewhat confused when Senator Sanders said, ‘Well,

you know Planned Parenthood and the Human Right's Campaign, they're part of the establishment and that's why they're supporting Hillary Clinton because it's all part of the establishment," Clinton said in Iowa last night. "I thought, boy I wish it were." ([Abby Phillip](#))

- **Bill Clinton, in New Hampshire, said Hillary is the real "change-maker" in the race.** ([Philip Rucker](#))
- **The S Word:** Sanders is also taking more heat on electability, and Clinton allies are increasingly describing him – publicly – as a socialist.

— **Dueling ads:**

The Clinton campaign launched a 60-second spot in the first two states touting Hillary's experience, perspective and toughness:



(@hillaryclinton)

Sanders launched his first commercial focused entirely on foreign policy. He makes the case that Clinton has experience but his judgment is solid. He promises he would “defend this nation but ... do it responsibly.” He also says that ISIS must be destroyed but that “we should not do it alone.” (He also went up with a spot in Iowa highlighting his opposition to the Bakken oil pipeline, which Clinton has declined to take a position on.)



(@bernie2016)

— **The Post’s Fact Checker this morning throws cold water on Sanders’ claims that he lost a 1988 House race because he supported an assault weapons ban:** “The evidence is mixed. He could have just as easily lost the election because he split votes with a Democrat, as opposed to being the only candidate without an NRA endorsement. In

1990, even Sanders was less sure that his failure to get an NRA endorsement two years prior was a major factor in his loss (*‘It might have been. We don’t know. Maybe it was, maybe it wasn’t.’*) Somewhere between 1990 and 2016, Sanders seems to have decided it’s played a bigger role than he originally thought.” ([Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#))

— **Sanders ramps up preparations for Super Tuesday:** The campaign has deployed about 50 paid campaign aides apiece to Nevada and South Carolina, the two states after New Hampshire. And paid staffers are now on the ground in all of the 11 states that have contests on March 1. “The preparations are part of an effort to buck what has emerged as the latest conventional wisdom surrounding the Democratic contest: that even if Clinton loses the first two contests, her superior campaign infrastructure and other advantages — including the demographics of the electorate — will allow her to overpower Sanders in subsequent states,” [John Wagner and Abby Phillip report](#).

— **Nevada’s most powerful union, the Culinary Union, will NOT endorse before the caucuses there.** The [L.A. Times](#) recalls how the group backed Obama in 2008, earning the ire of Bill Clinton and then saw Clinton carry the state any way, showing the limits of their juice.

— **The Clinton campaign’s Q1 fundraising goal is \$50 million.** [BuzzFeed](#) reports that top officials spent four-and-a-half hours with Latino donors earlier this week, trying to get them to step up. But they want commitments that cash they raise will be spent on outreach to their community.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



Bill de Blasio gives a press conference at City Hall in Manhattan last month. (Photo by Yana Paskova/For The Washington Post)

— **“Progressive hero or political doofus? Why Bill de Blasio has fallen in the polls,”** by Paul Schwartzman in New York: “Two years ago, de Blasio’s victory as an unrepentant progressive in the nation’s most-populous city was evidence of the electorate’s shift to the left ... Yet, midway through his term, de Blasio, 54, is buffeted by sagging poll numbers and rebukes from an ever-clamorous spectrum of New Yorkers. Allies on the left complain he’s not progressive enough. Editorial writers deride him as more dreamer than manager. ... The mayor’s problem is not his progressive message. It’s the mayor himself, the way he talks, executes his policies and presides over the city.”

— **“New evidence suggests a ninth planet lurking at the edge of the solar system,”** by Joel Achenbach and Rachel Feltman: “Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology announced Wednesday that they have found new evidence of a giant icy planet lurking in the darkness of our solar system far beyond the orbit of Pluto. They are

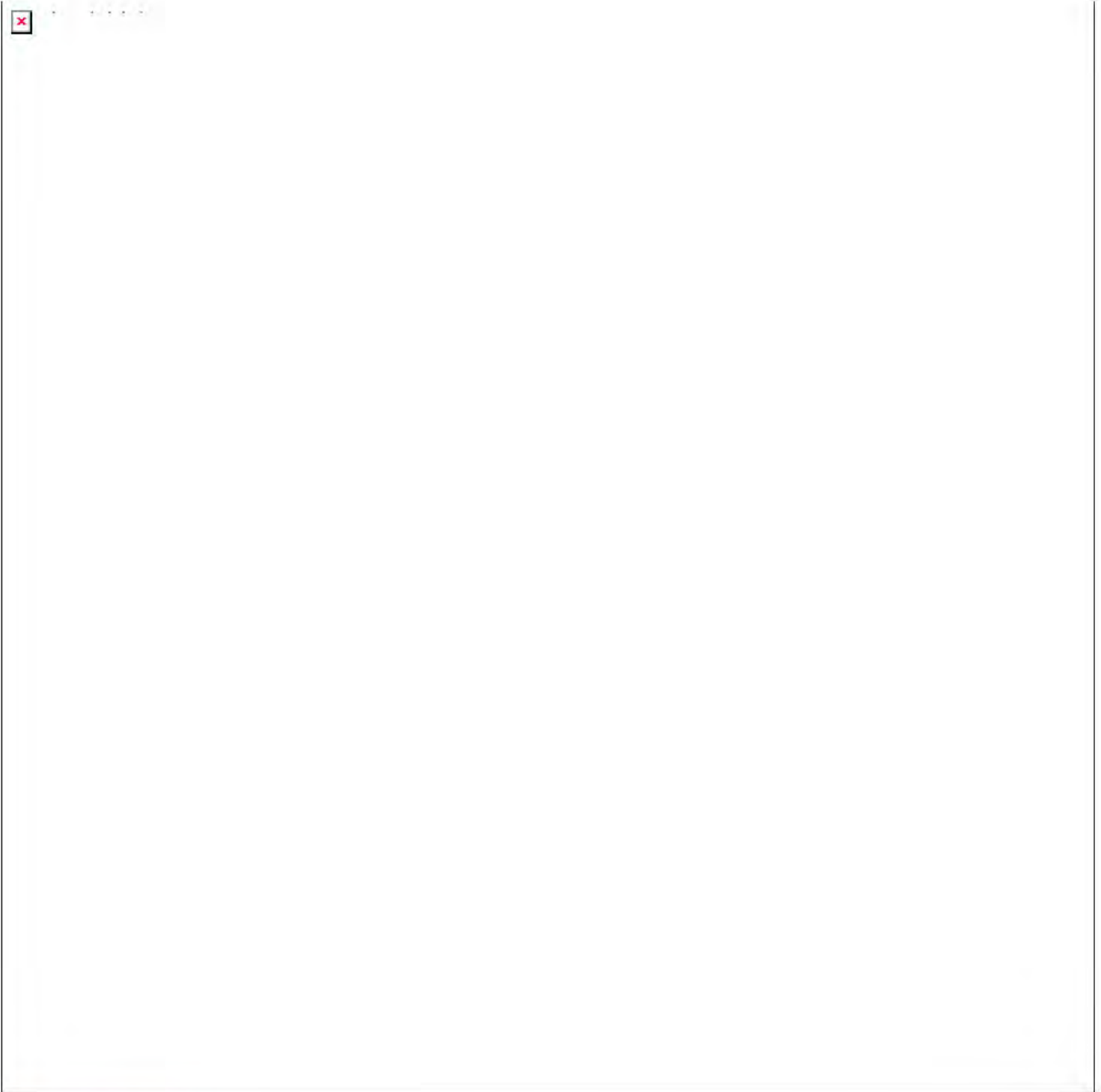
calling it 'Planet Nine.' Their paper, published in the *Astronomical Journal*, estimates the planet's mass as five to 10 times that of the Earth. But the authors, astronomers Michael Brown and Konstantin Batygin, have not observed the planet directly. ... Telescopes on at least two continents are searching for the object, which on average is 20 times farther away than the eighth planet, Neptune. If "Planet Nine" exists, it's big – about two to four times the diameter of the Earth, which would make it the fifth-largest planet after Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. But at such extreme distances, it would reflect so little sunlight that it could evade even the most powerful telescopes."



SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

–Pictures of the day:

Space flowers are *the coolest*. Check out the zinnias astronaut Scott Kelly is able to keep on the International Space Station. Then again, his plants apparently aren't doing so well. "Would be a problem on Mars. I'm going to have to channel my inner Mark Watney," Kelly [wrote](#), referring to the lead character in "The Martian":



(@StationCDRKelly)

This Donald Trump supporter in Tulsa, Okla., brings obsession to a new level:



(@alivitali)

Carly Fiorina nabbed a photo op with some cute kids at the Des Moines Botanical Garden:



(@leslieshedd)

With one year before the next president is sworn in, Hillary Clinton posted an old shot from Inauguration Day in 1997:



(hillaryclinton)

Rand Paul called Trump “Gollum” in a Facebook post, a reference to “Lord of the Rings:”



Electing Gollum should not be our objective

 RAND PAUL · WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 @

One candidate on this national stage wants you to give him power. He tells you he is rich, so he must be smart.

If you give him power he claims he will fix America, but there is another tradition in America. A tradition that believes that power corrupts, and that our goal should be not to gain power but to contain power or limit Presidential power. Our founding fathers feared centralization of power.

([Rand Paul](#))

–Tweets of the day:

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) urged constituents to enjoy sledding at the Capitol this weekend:



Eleanor H. Norton ✓

@EleanorNorton



Follow

Attention DC kids and families: Capitol Hill sledding ban has been lifted. Go for it!

Steve Burns @StvBurns

.@EleanorNorton: "In DC, this is our hill!" For the first time in 140 yrs, it is now legal to sled down Capitol Hill ow.ly/Xj8r5

(@EleanorNorton)

Things apparently get a little creepy/funny with the portraits in a Senate hearing room:



Sen. Patrick Leahy ✓

@SenatorLeahy



Follow

...and they don't miss a thing ;)

Curtis Tate @tatecurtis

Another highlight of @SenateAgGOP markup today: @SenPatRoberts talking about how @SenatorLeahy's eyes move in his portrait in the room.

(@SenatorLeahy)

Carson thanked Texas Tech for honoring Braden Joplin, a campaign staffer who died in an Iowa car accident:



Dr. Ben Carson ✓

@RealBenCarson



 Follow

Thank you to [@TexasTech](#) for flying their flag at half-mast in honor of Red Raider and volunteer Braden Joplin.



([@realBenCarson](#))

Jeb Bush stressed that he's thinking about women VP candidates:



Ashley Killough ✓

@KilloughCNN



 Follow

Bush on potential VP: She will be qualified to be POTUS that's for sure... I just said 'she' b/c why not? There shouldn't be any preconditions

(@KilloughCNN)

Politics is just one giant feedback loop, per the NYT's Nick Confessore:



Nick Confessore ✓

@nickconfessore



 Follow

Politics: Trump used to back Hillary, who endorsed Gore, who ran with Lieberman, who endorsed McCain, who picked Palin, who endorsed Trump.

(@nickconfessore)

A college roommate of Ted Cruz's — Hollywood screenwriter Craig Mazin — took to Twitter to describe how much he dislikes the Texas Republican. His rant caught the eye of Mia Farrow:



mia farrow ✓
@MiaFarrow



Follow

Ted Cruz roommate still can't stand him

Craig Mazin @clmazin

Getting emails blaming me for not smothering Ted Cruz in his sleep in 1988. What kind of monster do you think I am? A really prescient one?

(@MiaFarrow)

Here are a couple more thoughts from Mazin (hint: that German word means “face begging to be slapped”):



Craig Mazin ✓
@clmazin



Follow

When I met Ted in 1988, I had no word to describe him, but only because I didn't speak German. Thank you, Germans, for "Backpfeifengesicht."

(@clmazin)

Another former classmate of Cruz's piped up as well:



Geoff
@gacohen



 Follow

People might think Craig is exaggerating. He's not. I met Ted freshman week and loathed him within the hour.

(@gacohen)

One final thought from Mazin, for the record:



Craig Mazin 
@clmazin



 Follow

No. Hence, I remain sighted.

Jillette Razer @jillette_razer

@clmazin have you ever seen Ted Cruz naked?

(@clmazin)

And the Boston Globe's Matt Viser asked his BFF about the whereabouts of John McCain:



Matt Viser ✓

@mviser



Following

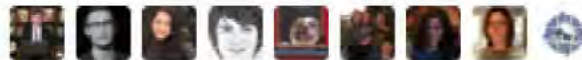
“Where’s Senator McCain?” a woman asks Lindsey Graham in Manchester. “I just talked to him. He’s taking his nap,” Graham responds.

RETWEETS

8

LIKES

8



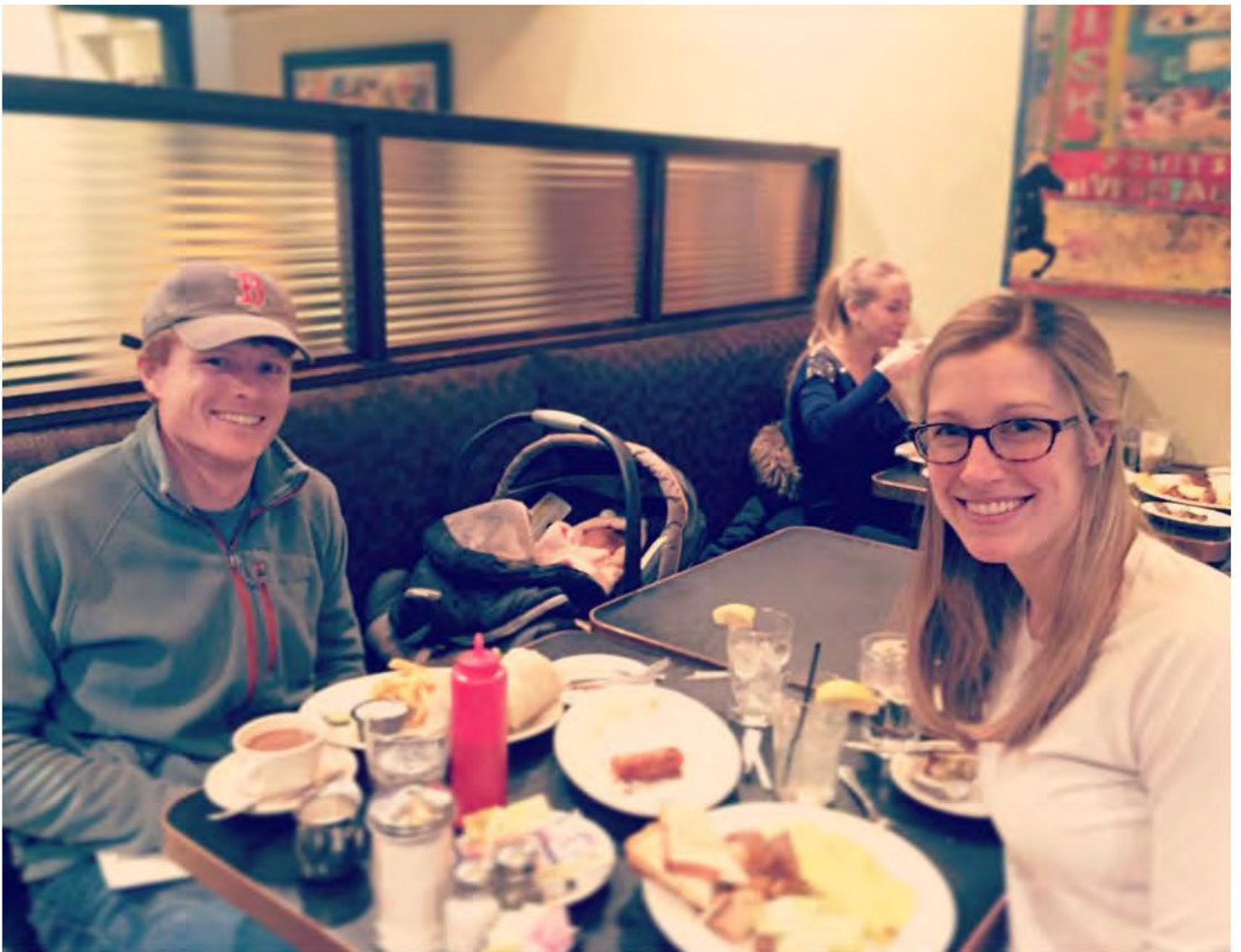
10:21 AM - 20 Jan 2016



(@mviser)

–Instagrams of the day:

New baby alert! Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) and wife Lauren brought Ellie to her first lunch at Zaftig’s in Brookline:



(repkennedy)

Fox News host Greta van Susteren posted this text from Amir Hekmati, one of the Americans released from Iranian prison:



**First bite of
steak in 4.5
years, he
LOVED it!**

Today 7:04 AM

**We are not
forgetting you!**

(greta)

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), along with other Wisconsin lawmakers, celebrated National Cheese Lovers Day:



(senronjohnson)

You just cannot get away from Trump, even in D.C. The Off The Record bar at the Hay-Adams hotel now puts down coasters bearing Trump's likeness:



GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, [“As Supreme Court clerk, Cruz made the death penalty his cause,”](#) by Jason Horowitz: “Cruz, the most ardent death penalty advocate of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist’s clerks in the 1996 term, became known at the court for his signature writing style. Nearly two decades later, his colleagues recall how Mr. Cruz, who frequently spoke of how his mentor’s father had been killed by a carjacker, often dwelled on the lurid details of murders that other clerks tended to summarize before quickly moving to the legal merits of the case. ... In interviews with nearly two dozen of Mr. Cruz’s former colleagues on the court, many of the clerks working in the chambers of liberal justices, but also several from conservative chambers, depicted Mr. Cruz as ‘obsessed’ with capital

punishment. ... In Mr. Cruz's time as a Supreme Court clerk, a coveted step in a legal career that he had meticulously plotted out, he showed his now familiar capacity to infuriate colleagues." It is, indeed, remarkable how many went on the record to criticize him two decades later. If you need more Cruz, read The New Republic profile of campaign manager Jeff Roe [here](#).

— **Marshall Project, "Is Charles Koch a closet liberal?", by Bill Keller:** "Not hardly. But he's for rolling back the war on drugs, ending mass incarceration, and letting former convicts vote." Koch Industries General Counsel Mark Holden explains that Charles Koch prefers to be described as "a classical liberal" more than a "libertarian." Holden adds that, "the term 'libertarian' can have many different meanings and interpretations, including those who believe in no government, no national defense, and/or extreme individualism above all else and at the expense of others."

— **Bloomberg, "What kind of man spends millions to elect Ted Cruz?" by Zachary Mider:** "So far, Robert Mercer is the biggest single donor in the race. Working with his daughter Rebekah, he's spent tens of millions more to advance a conservative agenda, investing in think tanks such as the Heritage Foundation, the media outlet Breitbart.com, and Cambridge Analytica, a data company that builds psychological profiles of voters. Groups he funds have attacked the science of global warming, published a book critical of Hillary Clinton, and bankrolled a documentary celebrating Ayn Rand. ... Some allies privately say they think he's pro-life and opposed to gay marriage, and others say the opposite. Republican operatives gossip about what little scraps of information they can glean—his theatrical Christmas galas [and] his habit of whistling to himself during business meetings."

— **The Atlantic, "How Palin created Trump," by Molly Ball:** "Like no one else before Trump, Palin saw a constituency on the right for a politics of resentment that sought as its champion a pure agent of chaos, unfettered by positive or substantive views. ... She tapped a vein of previously unheralded biker-bar conservatism that has lain dormant ever since, waiting for Trump to speak to it. Alienated from both parties, Palin proceeded to find a home in the then-nascent organs of the GOP fever swamps ... In 2011, a right-wing

filmmaker named Stephen Bannon made an adulatory movie about Palin, 'The Undefeated'; he went on to become executive chairman of Breitbart.com, the website that has served as Trump's most loyal cheering section. Palin's people are Trump's people."

— **Americans are skeptical that *any* of the 2016 candidates would be great as president.** The Pew Research Center conducted [a national survey](#) this month of 2,009 adults and found that 35% of voters say that Hillary would make either a good or great president, while 28% said she would be terrible; 31% say Trump would be either a good or great president; 11% say he would be great. 52% think Trump would make a poor or terrible president, with 38% saying he would be terrible. 30% say Sanders would be either a good or great president, while 35% say he would be poor or terrible. Views of Cruz, Carson, Christie, Bush and Kasich are more negative than positive, on balance.

HOT ON THE LEFT

Poor Rand Paul. His dad, Ron, said last night that it is very possible Trump will be the GOP nominee. From [the Huffington Post](#): "Realistically is Trump going to be the nominee at this point?" NewsMax's Steve Mazlberg asked on Wednesday. After a long pause, Paul grudgingly conceded that, 'at this point it certainly is realistic.' Still, he said his son 'may well surprise everybody.'"

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Actress Stacey Dash said Black History Month should no longer exist. From [Justin Wm Moyer](#): "Either we want to have segregation or integration, and if we don't want segregation, then we have to get rid of channels like BET and the BET Awards and the Image Awards, where you're only awarded if you're black," the "Clueless" star said on Fox News. "If it were the other way round, we would be in up arms. It's a double standard. ... Just like there shouldn't be a Black History Month. You know?"

DAYBOOK:

–What’s happening today on the campaign trail:

- 11 days until Iowa; 19 days until New Hampshire.
- **Trump** is in Las Vegas, making an appearance at the South Point at 1:00 p.m. Pacific.
- **Hillary** attends an organizing event in Indianola, Iowa at 11:30 a.m. Central before heading to Vinton and Iowa City.
- **Bill** is in Nevada.
- **Sanders** is in Peterborough, N.H., before going to Manchester, Nashua and Wolfeboro.
- **Cruz** hosts two events in Manchester, N.H.
- **Rubio** hosts a national security forum in Manchester and a town hall in Brookline.
- **Bush** is also in New Hampshire, and will appear at events in Newport, Nashua and Hampton.
- **Christie** travels to Chester, Pittsfield, Boscawen and Meredith, N.H.
- **Kasich** hosts two events in Laconia before speaking at a town hall in Wolfeboro.
- **Carson** speaks in Glenwood and Atlantic, Iowa.
- **O’Malley** is in Henniker, Nashua, Straham and Manchester.
- **Huckabee** makes stops in Sioux City, Le Mars, Sioux Center, Rock Valley and Sheldon.

–On the Hill: The Senate convenes at 9:30 a.m. The House is in recess.

–At the White House:

- **Obama** hosts leaders from the U.S. Conference of Mayors this evening at the White House.
- **Biden**, in Switzerland for Davos, has a bilateral meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu. Later he hosts a trilateral meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghani President Ashraf Ghani. Biden then meets with Cyprus President Nicos

Anastasiades, followed by a one-on-one with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. At the end of the day Biden flies to Istanbul.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

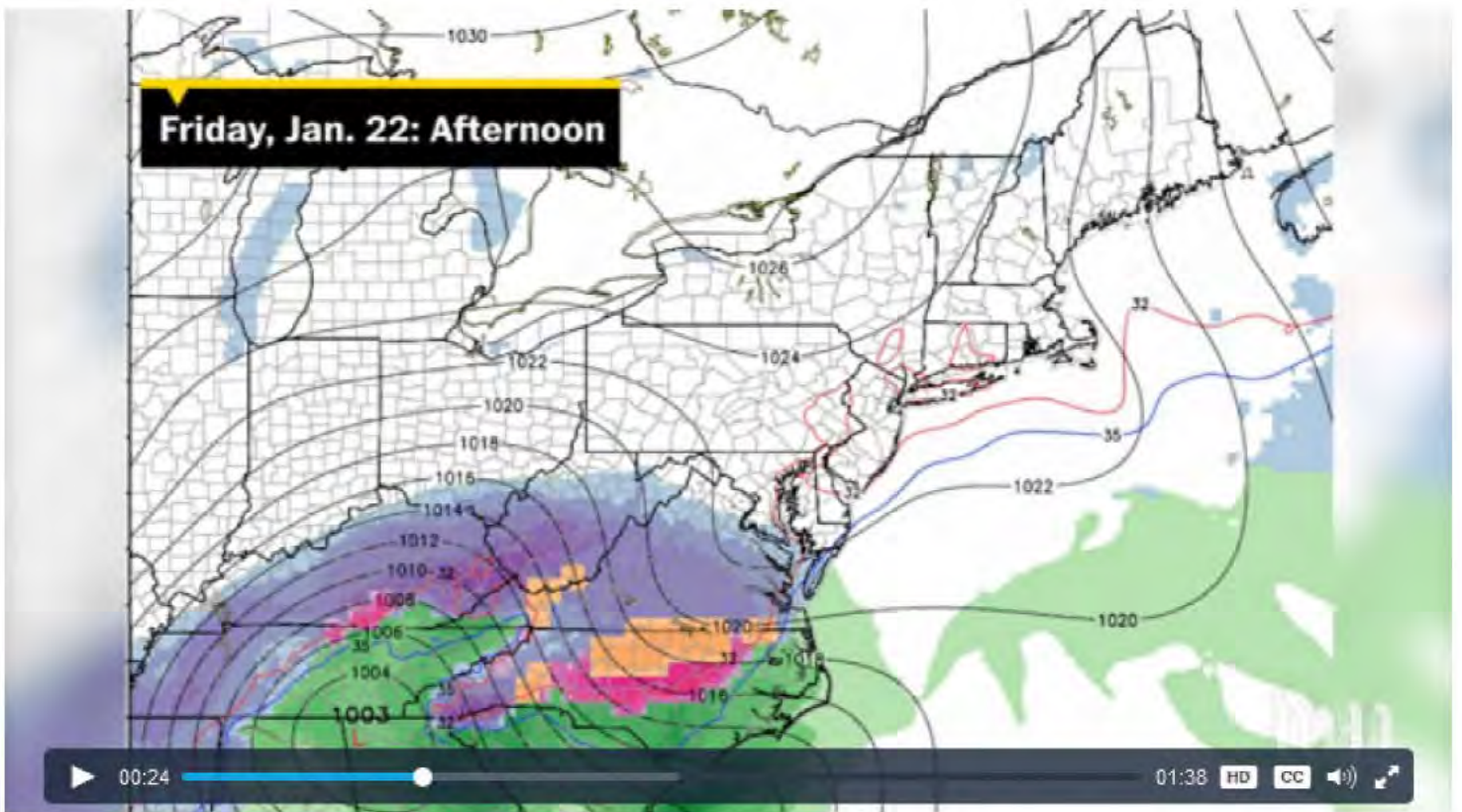
The Post's **Jason Rezaian**, blessedly a free man, issued this [statement](#) from Landstuhl, Germany: "I want to get back to writing the U.S.-Iran story at some point in the future. But I won't be saying anything further for awhile. I hope everyone will respect my need for privacy as I take some time for myself and for my family. For now, I want to catch up with what's been going on in the world, watch a Warriors game or two, and see the Star Wars movie."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— Today is **"not a total calm before the storm as breezes gust up to 20 mph out of the northwest to start the day. But they do taper off by afternoon,"** [the Capital Weather Gang forecasts](#). "Sunshine has very few clouds to contend with but the cold air stubbornly in place with highs only in the low-to-mid 30s."

- But Prince William County cancelled school for today. Fairfax, Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas and Montgomery schools will start two hours late. The University of Maryland preemptively announced that it will close Friday through Sunday. ([Complete list of closings and delays](#))
- Tomorrow's big storm could start as early 11 a.m. or as late as around 4 p.m., [per the latest modeling](#).

Here's a short video with the latest projections:



(Washington Post)

— D.C. politicians were alarmed by the region's botched handling of last night's **minor dusting of snow**, which bodes very poorly for the days ahead.

Charlie Posner, policy manager at the Clinton-aligned Center for American Progress, posted this screen grab from his Google Maps app during rush hour:

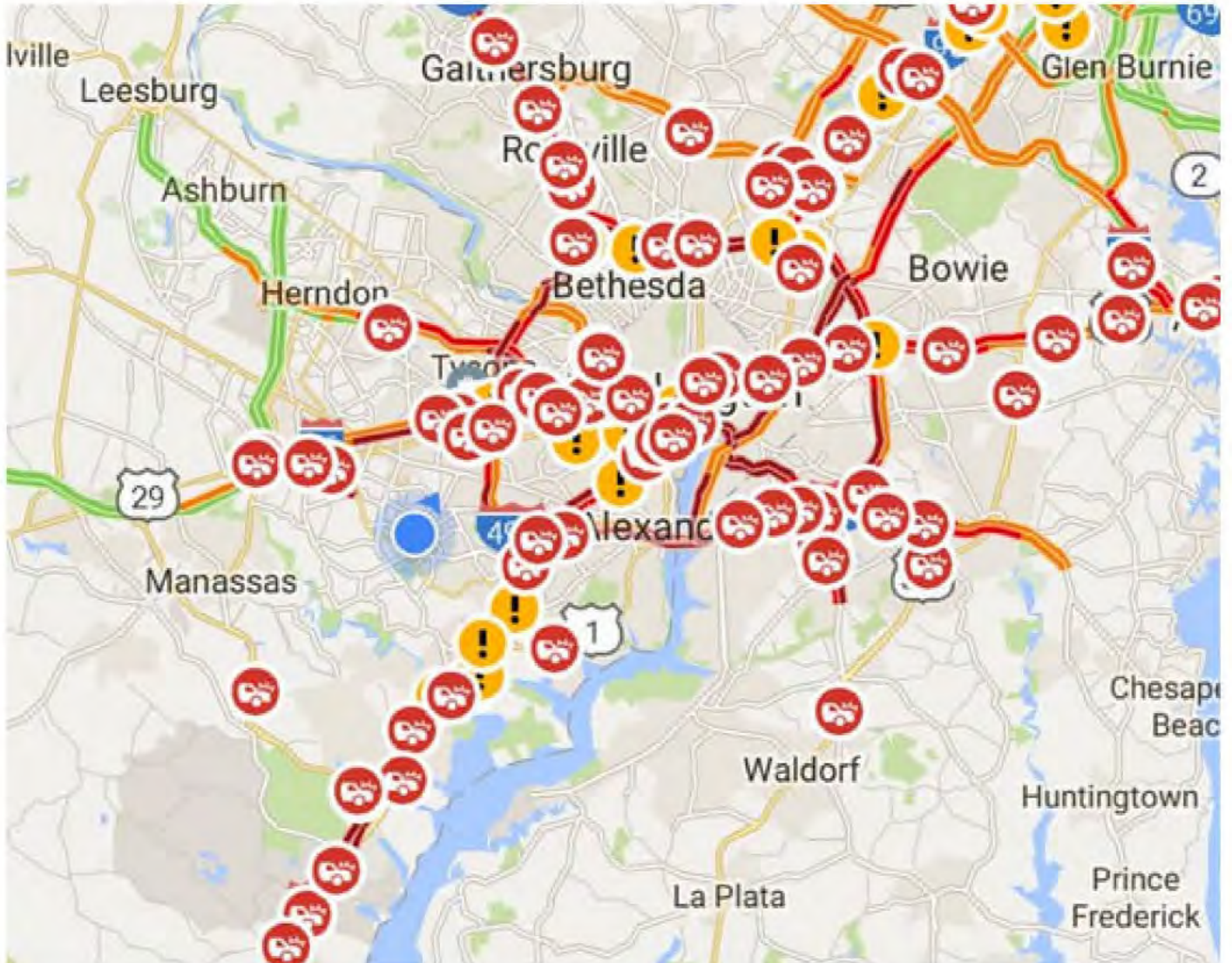


Charlie Posner
@charlie_posner



Follow

1 inch of snow on untreated roads in DC causes this. 20+'expected Friday.



(@charlie_posner)

Bloomberg's Washington bureau chief:



Megan Murphy ✓

@meganmurp



Follow

Half an inch of snow and it's bumper cars tonight. Only in DC. Worst.drivers.ever.

(@MeganMurp)

Politico's Glenn Thrush:



Glenn Thrush ✓

@GlennThrush



Follow

VDOT spox on WTOP lying thru teeth -- saying there are trucks treating roads -- Beltway untreated 5ph -- cars skidding

(@GlennThrush)

The Post's Phil Rucker poked at [Muriel Bowser](#):



Philip Rucker ✓

@PhilipRucker



Follow

DC mayor held a photo opp with salt trucks today, yet somehow forgot to deploy them

(@PhilipRucker)

And The Post's Mark Berman fretted about the region's preparedness:



Mark Berman ✓
@markberman



Follow

lol snow is gonna start midday Friday, everybody in D.C. should just expect to stay where you are now until spring

(@MarkBerman)

Mitt Romney's chief strategist in 2012, and Daily Beast columnist Stuart Stevens thinks Trump has the solution!



stuart stevens
@stuartpstevens



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I think with the comfort of Two Corinthians, DC can get through it.

Mollie @MZHemingway

BREAKING: BLIZZARD TWICE THE SIZE OF ANY OUT EAST HITTING ROCKIES WEEKLY [twitter.com/bethanyshondar...](https://twitter.com/bethanyshondar)

(@stuartpstevens)

— **The Wizards beat the Miami Heat 106-87.** ([Jorge Castillo](#))

— **A judge ruled that one of the Baltimore police officers awaiting retrial in Freddie Gray's death does not need to testify against three of his co-defendants.** ([Lynh Bui](#))

— **A Virginia Senate panel scrapped a bill allowing police officers to take away guns from those a judge deems a "substantial risk" of injury to themselves or others.**

([Laura Vozzella](#))

— **Rep. J. Randy Forbes (R-Va.), endangered by a new court-imposed congressional map in Virginia, will likely change districts to stay in Congress.** A spokeswoman for Rep. Scott Rigell (R-Va.), who is retiring, said the outgoing congressman is encouraging his Republican colleague to move into his district “and will fully support him if he makes the decision to do so.” Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms told the Virginian-Pilot the congressman is considering making the move. ([Rachel Weiner](#))

— **In the 2017 Virginia governor’s race, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) raised less money over the past three months than Republican Ed Gillespie.** Gillespie raised \$483,000 by the end of December, while Northam raised \$404,000. ([Laura Vozzella](#))

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Just another day on the trail, with two oddballs confronting John Kasich in New Hampshire as Mark Halperin tries to talk with the governor. Via American Bridge’s tracker:



[\(@americanbridge21stcentury\)](#)

An Ohio A capella group surprised Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) with an impromptu performance (and salute to Skyline Chili):



(senrobportman)

Check out the massive line of people waiting to get into Trump's Tulsa rally:



(@JDiamond1)

Coincidence? Here's what happened when MSNBC tried to carry Palin's speech live:



(@FreeBeacon)

A video from the Jeb campaign imagines Trump conceding to Clinton over Twitter and says "it's not too late" to stop him. ([Watch.](#))



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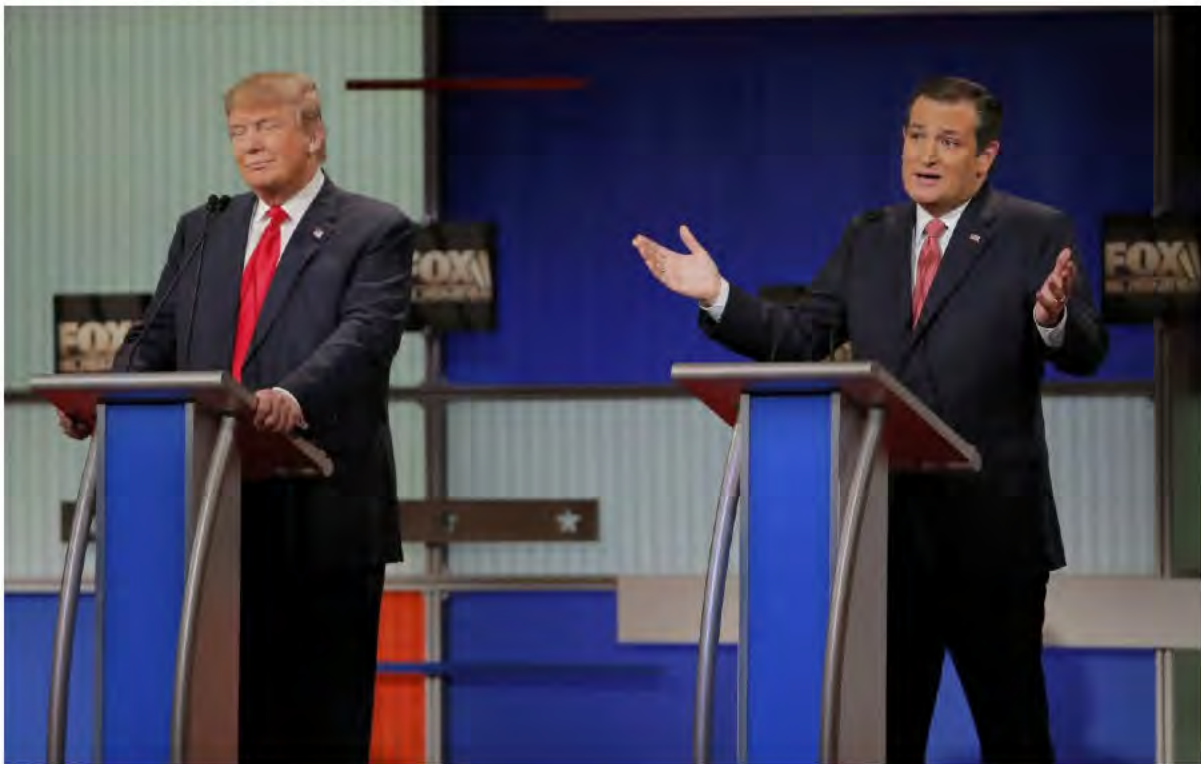
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From: The Washington Post <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Sorrell, Bill
Subject: Politics: GOP establishment warms to Trump — and remains cool toward Cruz

The Washington Post

Politics

The most important politics stories today



Chris Keane / Reuters

GOP establishment warms to Trump — and remains cool toward Cruz

Many see the Texas senator as dangerously inflexible in his politics and grating personally.

By Robert Costa, Philip Rucker and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)

Barbara Bush in new video for Jeb Bush: 'I think he'll be a great president'

The former first lady becomes the first member of the famous family to so publicly speak out on his behalf.

By Ed O'Keefe • [Read more »](#)



The zombie claim that 300,000 children are used as child soldiers

UNICEF years ago determined that this estimate was faulty--and yet it continues to circulate.

By Glenn Kessler • [Read more »](#)



National Review loses GOP debate sponsorship over anti-Trump issue

The Republican National Committee ended the partnership after the conservative magazine devoted an issue to reasons why voters should reject Donald Trump's campaign.

By David Weigel • [Read more »](#)



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AdChoices 

Trump, in first attack ad, accuses Cruz of immigration flip-flop

The ad uses Sen. Cruz's own words against him.

By Jose A. DelReal • [Read more »](#)



Clinton ally questions Sanders's commitment to black lives; Sanders camp calls him a mudslinger

The back-and-forth suggests an ugly 10 days could be ahead before voting begins in Iowa.

By John Wagner • [Read more »](#)



Continuing his attacks on Trump, Cruz stops mentioning the polls

By David Weigel • [Read more »](#)



Postal reform consensus develops; 5-day delivery dead

Various parties agree on the basics of a plan to reform the financially troubled Postal Service, which no longer pushes cutting one day of mail delivery.

By Joe Davidson • [Read more »](#)



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AdChoices

Obama turns into a District commuter as snow snags his motorcade

Usually short trip from Andrews to White House to into more than an hour-long slog.

By David Nakamura and Juliet Eilperin • [Read more »](#)



How Bernie Sanders's sharp words for Obama led to his own presidential bid

His call for a primary challenger against the president spurred activists to recruit him.

By Matea Gold • [Read more »](#)



Trump knocks Cruz on icy relationships in Congress, says deals are 'what the country's about'

"I can tell you, they like me, those guys. And there's nothing wrong with that, folks," Trump said.

By Jose A. DelReal • [Read more »](#)





Obama administration rolls out new visa waiver program rules in wake of terror attacks

The restrictions prevent nationals of 38 countries who have either traveled to Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since March 1, 2011.

By Karoun Demirjian and Jerry Markon • [Read more »](#)



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Subject: Politics: Top Democratic rivals offer contrasting views on presidency

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Politics

The most important politics stories today



Justin Sullivan / Bloomberg

Top Democratic rivals offer contrasting views on presidency

At Iowa town hall, Clinton stresses her experience; Sanders touts his judgment.

By John Wagner and Karen Tumulty • [Read more »](#)

Obama bans solitary confinement for juveniles in federal prisons

Sweeping new rules also curb isolation for adult inmates, limit time for first offense to 60 days, rather than 365.



By Juliet Eilperin • [Read more »](#)

600 'requests' from Benghazi for better security: What this statistic really means

This widely cited figure is almost always described incorrectly by politicians and the media.



By Glenn Kessler • [Read more »](#)

Hillary Clinton gave an impassioned answer to Sanders supporters who doubt her character

"I'm still standing," Hillary Clinton said.

By Abby Phillip • [Read more »](#)



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At Iowa town hall, Clinton says presidency is more complicated than Sanders makes it out to be

Earlier, Sanders questioned Clinton's judgment regarding the Iraq war and Wall Street.

By John Wagner, Abby Phillip and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)



The five words that could come back to haunt Bernie Sanders

Sanders uttered a handful of words that his opponents are likely to use against him.

By Abby Phillip • [Read more »](#)



S.C. Republican who called Nikki Haley 'a raghead' to endorse Trump

A South Carolina Republican who was censured for his incendiary rhetoric plans to endorse Donald Trump on Wednesday and host a barbecue for him.

By Philip Rucker • [Read more »](#)



Ted Cruz, under siege in Iowa, tries to play 'underdog'

Ted Cruz's surge in Iowa invites attacks from GOP rivals and the state's political and business elite.

By Philip Rucker and Robert Costa • [Read more »](#)



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AdChoices 

Cruz: I'm the only candidate who can beat Trump

Cruz spoke to a group of Iowa pastors Monday.

By Katie Zezima • [Read more »](#)



Sanders seeks to reassure nervous voters about his 'democratic socialist' label

Half of the country say they would not vote for a socialist if one were their party's nominee.

By Abby Phillip • [Read more »](#)



David Trone, owner of Total Wine & More, mulling run for Congress

Potomac businessman would join large Democratic field seeking to succeed Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md).

By Bill Turque • [Read more »](#)





After Iowa debate, John Kasich heads back to New Hampshire to stay until the primary

The Ohio governor, buoyed by a string of good news in the Granite State, is giving up on Iowa and going all-in on the first in the nation primary instead.



By Ed O'Keefe • [Read more »](#)

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From: Washingtonpost <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
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Hillary bets her prose can triumph over Bernie's poetry



BY JAMES HOHMANN



Hillary speaks during a Democratic town hall in Des Moines last night. (Patrick T. Fallon/Bloomberg)

THE BIG IDEA:

Hillary Clinton said last night that she “loves” the new Bernie Sanders ad set to Simon and Garfunkel singing, “They’ve all come to look for America.” Then she tried to offer a reality check.

“Now, look,” she said during a town hall in Des Moines. “You campaign in poetry. You govern in prose. And we need a lot more poetry in this campaign. *But* I believe that I’m the better person to be the Democratic nominee, and the commander in chief.”

The campaign-in-poetry, govern-in-prose trope was coined by the late Mario Cuomo, the liberal New York governor. Was it a coincidence that Cuomo’s son, Chris, was moderating the event for CNN?

For Clinton, it gave fresh life to a mantra that she unsuccessfully tried to use as a cudgel against then-Sen. Obama in 2008. "You campaign with poetry, but you govern with prose," she often [said](#), downplaying his rhetorical abilities.

In an interview published earlier yesterday, President Obama dismissed comparisons of Sanders to himself or this campaign to 2008. "I don't think that's true," Obama told [Politico](#). He said the fact that Clinton knows "every policy inside and out ... could make her more cautious, and her campaign more prose than poetry."

Just like last time, Clinton, locked in a neck-and-neck race in Iowa, is trying to grab the mantle of change late in the game. Last night, she had a moment that might help. A first-time caucus-goer who said he's leaning toward Sanders told Clinton that many of his friends find her to be "dishonest" and inauthentic. "I've been on the front lines of change and progress since I was your age," she [replied](#). "I've taken on the status quo time and time again." The crowd loved it.

The two newsiest quotes from the night—

Sanders on his [ambitious plans](#): "Yes, we will raise taxes. Yes we will."

Clinton on [her email server](#): "I'm not willing to say it was an error in judgment because nothing I did was wrong."

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

-- Federal offices in D.C. will remain [closed today](#) as the city recovers from the snowstorm. So is every major school system in the region. ([List here.](#))

- **Metro** mostly resumed rail service at 5 a.m. But it could not open the Silver Line, and at the last minute the transit agency said workers are unable to restore train service at four Orange Line stations that were expected to reopen: Vienna, Dunn Loring, West Falls Church and East Falls Church. Bus service will be expanded over the course of today, although it is still extremely limited. (The latest on the clean-up effort is [here.](#))

- **Tragedy 1:** A snow plow hit a pedestrian walking down the street in Montgomery County about 8 p.m. The man's injuries are described as significant but not life threatening. ([Martin Weil](#))
- **Tragedy 2:** A family in New Jersey was trying to dig its way out when the chill became too much to handle. The mother and her children — ages 1 and 3 — huddled in the car with the engine running to keep warm. The kids' father tried to clear the snow outside. But the tailpipe was clogged with snow, pushing deadly carbon monoxide gas into the car. When the father went to check on them, he could not wake them up. ([Lindsey Bever](#))
- **Today's weather:** "Our warming and melting trend picks up another notch as temperatures surge ahead of an approaching cold front," [the Capital Weather Gang forecasts](#). "Partly to mostly cloudy skies with warmer morning temperatures allow highs to reach the mid-to-upper 40s. A slight chance of rain showers show up by late afternoon into evening."

-- **Obama banned solitary confinement for juveniles in federal prisons**, saying the practice is overused and has the potential for devastating psychological consequences. In an op-ed that appears in today's Post, the president outlines a series of executive actions that also prohibit federal corrections officials from punishing prisoners who commit "low-level infractions" with solitary confinement. "The new rules also call for expanding treatment for mentally ill prisoners," [Juliet Eilperin scoops](#). "While the president's reforms apply broadly to the roughly 10,000 federal inmates serving time in solitary confinement, there are only a handful of juvenile offenders placed in restrictive housing each year. Between September 2014 and September 2015, federal authorities were notified of just 13 juveniles who were put in solitary in its prisons." Read the op-ed [here](#).

-- **The creator of the anti-Planned Parenthood videos was indicted on felony charges.** "A Houston grand jury that was investigating accusations of criminal misconduct against Planned Parenthood instead indicted the leader of an anti-abortion group that recorded covert videos of the organization's employees," Danielle Paquette reports. "Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson said David Daleiden, the director of the Center for Medical Progress, faces a

felony charge of tampering with a governmental record and a misdemeanor count related to buying human tissue. Sandra Merritt, one of Daleiden's employees, was also indicted on a charge of tampering with a governmental record. The grand jury cleared Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast of any wrongdoing. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said, however, that the inspector general of the state's Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas attorney general's office would continue to investigate Planned Parenthood's actions."

-- One week before Iowa, a brand new Washington Post/ABC News poll shows Donald Trump solidifying his national lead. "Republicans see Trump as the strongest candidate on major issues and by far the most electable in the large field of GOP hopefuls," Dan Balz and Scott Clement write. The business mogul leads the national GOP field by 16 points, at 37 percent, with Ted Cruz placing 2nd, at 21 percent. Marco Rubio is in 3rd with 11 percent, followed by Ben Carson (7 percent) and Jeb Bush (5 percent). Trump's supporters are more committed to him than those of his rivals, with 57 percent saying they will definitely vote for him (compared to 34 percent for all the other candidates). In a big shift, 6 of 10 Republicans see Trump as most likely to win the GOP nod, and The Donald leads among all demographic groups (including white evangelicals, though his strongest support comes from those with income under \$50,000). Trump's success appears bolstered by the finding that 9 in 10 GOPers say the country is seriously on the wrong track, and 8 in 10 are dissatisfied with the federal government. [See the full results here.](#)

-- The results are much closer in Iowa, where Trump leads Cruz by 2 points (31 to 29 percent) among likely Republican caucus-goers, according to new numbers released this morning by Quinnipiac University. Rubio places 3rd with 13 percent with no other candidate breaking 7 percent. The results are pretty much the same as the Q poll's Jan. 11 survey. Only 2 percent are undecided, though 39 percent of those who picked a candidate might change their minds.

-- The Democratic contest in the Hawkeye State is also narrowing. Clinton leads Sanders by 6 points (48 to 42 percent), down from 14 points in early December, according to a [Fox News poll](#) released last night. Bernie is gaining among men (a 2-point December edge grew to a 12-point advantage now), while Hillary is losing ground among those 45 and older and those

with college degrees. [Nationally](#), Clinton's numbers are also slipping, with 49 percent supporting her (down from 54 percent two weeks ago) compared to 37 percent for Sanders (also down, from 39 percent). Undecideds rose from 2 to 10 percent. The Fox News Poll says that the Clinton erosion comes partially from falling support among black voters, 67 percent of whom now back her (compared to 78 percent two weeks ago and 84 percent in December).

Welcome to The Daily 202, with contributions from Michael Smith. [Sign up to receive the newsletter](#). Programming note: We are launching a new back-end system to prepare and publish this morning. It should not impact your user experience. But, if it does, please flag any issues to powerpost@washpost.com. Thank you for reading.

GET SMART FAST:

1. The **Supreme Court** ruled that teenagers sentenced to mandatory life sentences for murder must have a chance to argue for release. The ruling, which is retroactive, could affect as many as 1,500 inmates nationwide. ([Robert Barnes](#))
2. **SCOTUS** also upheld a **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** rule that electricity generators hate. The 6-2 decision is a win for Obama and the environmentalists. ([Robert Barnes](#))
3. **New Hampshire** has designated two judges to hear voter and ballot challenges during the Feb. 9 primary, when a new **voter ID** law goes into effect. ([AP](#))
4. At least 20 were killed when **ISIS** militants set off multiple bombs at a government-run security checkpoint in **Homs, Syria**. ([AP](#))
5. The **Taliban** claimed responsibility after an **Afghan** policeman fatally shot 10 of his fellow officers in **Kandahar** before fleeing. ([AP](#))
6. The **U.N.** will convene **Syrian** peace talks on Friday, but **President Bashar al-Assad's** government and his opponents will no longer meet face-to-face, which was part of the original plan. ([Liz Sly](#))

7. **John Kerry**, meeting with **Cambodian** leaders, expressed concern over the government's record on human rights and corruption. The visit focused on trade and investment. ([Carol Morello](#))
8. The owner of a **gun shop** and his son were killed during a shootout with two customers, who were injured in the gunfire, after an argument over a \$25 fee. ([Sarah Larimer](#))
9. Federal authorities are searching for three men who escaped from a **maximum-security prison** in **Southern California**. ([Peter Holley](#))
10. **Airbus** is one of several companies already trying to sell products to **Iran** now that economic sanctions have been lifted. ([New York Times](#))
11. The **University of Missouri** professor who called for "muscle" to push out student journalists trying to cover campus protests was charged with assault. ([Susan Svrluga](#))
12. **Indiana's** economy lost as much as \$60 million in 2015 when several organizations decided not to host events in Indianapolis because of the state's controversial religious liberty law. ([AP](#))
13. Scientists found evidence of a massacre in **Kenya** 10,000 years ago, making it the oldest act of human warfare. ([Reuters](#))

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass.)** put a hold on President Obama's nominee to head the **FDA** because he wants the agency to do more about the abuse of opioid painkillers. ([Brady Dennis](#))
2. **Martin Shkreli**, the ex-biotech executive facing fraud charges, got permission from a judge to travel to D.C. to testify on drug pricing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Feb. 4. ([Bloomberg](#))
3. **Scott Walker** listed his three-bedroom Wisconsin house for \$338,000. He lives in the governor's manion, and tweeted that he's looking to "downsize" now that he and his wife are empty nesters. ([Politico](#))

4. **Zephyr Teachout**, the protest candidate against **Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.)** in the 2014 primary, is running to succeed retiring Republican **Rep. Chris Gibson**. ([Poughkeepsie Journal](#))
5. **George H.W. Bush** and his wife, **Barbara**, called **Nikki Haley** to congratulate her for her State of the Union response. ([Charleston Post and Courier](#))
6. British explorer **Henry Worsley**, attempting the first unassisted solo crossing of **Antarctica**, died 71 days after starting his journey. He was within 30 miles of his target. ([Brian Murphy](#))

MORE ON THE REPUBLICAN RACE--

CRUZ, SLIPPING, IS TRYING TO REGAIN HIS FOOTING IN IOWA AGAINST TRUMP:

1. His campaign spent yesterday describing him as "the underdog." ([Robert Costa and Philip Rucker](#))
2. The Texas senator [warned a group of pastors](#) in a closed-door meeting that, "If Donald wins Iowa, he right now has a substantial lead in New Hampshire. If he went on to win New Hampshire as well **there's a very good chance he could be unstoppable** and be our nominee. And the next seven days in Iowa will determine whether or not that happens." ([Katie Zezima](#))
3. The Cruz campaign launched an attack ad against Trump's "New York values." It includes an old clip of Trump saying that he is pro-choice across the board and saying "how stupid are the people of Iowa." ([Watch here.](#))
4. A Cruz Super PAC launched three attack ads against Trump as part of a \$2.5 million buy. One also highlights [his past support for partial-birth abortion](#), using the same "Meet the Press" interview as in the campaign's ad. Another spot shows a clip of Trump praising Cruz in 2014. A third slams Trump for backing universal health care, or "[Trumpcare.](#)"
5. A separate pro-Cruz PAC launched a radio ad in **Iowa** to defend his **ethanol** stance. ([David Weigel](#))
6. **Marco Rubio** attacked Cruz on Fox News for his law clients while in private practice. "When Ted Cruz had to choose as a lawyer, he was choosing to represent the

Chinese," Rubio said. "He represented a Chinese company that stole secrets and a product from an American company. So you can't go around saying you're tough on China but then have a legal record in which you were paid a lot of money to defend the Chinese who had taken a product away from an American unjustly, unfairly and illegally." ([Watch here.](#))

THE DAILY TRUMP:

1. A top aide to **Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), Stephen Miller**, will join Trump's campaign as a senior policy adviser. ([Costa](#))
2. The former **South Carolina** Republican state representative who called **Nikki Haley** a "raghead," **Jake Knotts**, endorsed Trump. ([Philip Rucker](#))
3. Trump taunted **Michael Bloomberg** on [CNN](#): "I'd beat him. ... I would love him to do it actually. ... You know, we used to be friends. I guess we're not friends anymore."
4. **Donald Rumsfeld**, a longtime adversary of Bush 41 but the Defense Secretary to Bush 43, said Jeb is not connecting because "there are some people that are uncomfortable with a dynasty." Rumsfeld told the "[Today](#)" show that Trump "has a touched a nerve in our country."

KASICH RISING, CHRISTIE FADING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:

1. The [Boston Globe](#) endorsed **Kasich**. The [Boston Herald](#) endorsed **Christie**.
2. **Kasich** is going all-in on the Granite State. After Thursday's Iowa debate, he will not leave New Hampshire until the primary. Another poll yesterday, from Franklin Pierce University, put the Ohio governor ahead of the rest of the establishment contenders in the state, with 12 percent. ([Ed O'Keefe](#))
3. **Christie's** favorability has dropped from 53% last month to 41% now among New Hampshire Republicans, per CNN: "He has been crucified over the last few weeks," said **Mike Dennehy**, an unaffiliated Republican operative in the state. "It's a shame for Christie because he really did have momentum." Dennehy came home from work one night to two campaign mailers attacking Christie's record. He shrugged it off, walked

inside and flipped on his Pandora. The first ad to interrupt his streaming music: an attack on Christie. He later grabbed his remote and flipped on the news. There were back-to-back ads targeting Christie. ([CNN](#))

MORE ON THE DEMOCRATIC RACE:

1. **South Carolina** State Rep. **Justin T. Bamberg**, the lawyer for **Walter Scott's** family, switched his support from **Clinton** to **Sanders**. ([Vanessa Williams](#))
2. **Bill** will fly to Iowa on Thursday for a four-city swing: Waverly, Mount Vernon, Washington and Ottumwa. ([Abby Phillip](#))
3. **Hillary's 2008 campaign manager, Patti Solis Doyle**, considered quitting her post as an aide to the First Lady in 1998 during the Monica Lewinsky scandal but resolved to stay. "It was a s---y thing to do to her. But he did it. She didn't do it," Solis Doyle said in an interview with David Axelrod for his podcast. "I thought, she didn't do anything. He is the jerk here. And why would I punish her by quitting? ... But what he did was absolutely unacceptable for many of the young women who were working on that staff." ([CNN](#); [Podcast](#))
4. A super PAC founded by GOP megadonor **Joe Ricketts**, Ending Spending Action Fund, is launching a \$600,000 TV buy in Iowa that calls Sanders "too liberal." The spot, first reported by the [New York Times](#), is clearly aimed at helping boost **Sanders** over Clinton, highlighting his support for tuition-free college, single-payer health care and tax increases on the "super-rich."



Too Liberal

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



Chris Christie hands over his pen to Senate President Stephen Sweeney after signing legislation turning over control of Atlantic City's casino district to the state, in the unfinished lobby of the stalled Revel Casino in Feb. 2011. (Tom Galish / Staff Photographer)

-- **Christie failed to arrest Atlantic City's decline in the latest episode of our Decider series. --> [“Atlantic City’s Mr. Fix-It,”](#) by David Fahrenthold:** “Christie chose to intervene aggressively in Atlantic City’s troubles, believing that a better governor — and a little more government — could overcome its steep economic decline. So first, Christie had the state take over half of the city. But that wasn’t enough. So he tried a new casino. But that wasn’t enough. So he tried Internet betting. But that wasn’t enough . . . Despite Christie’s efforts, four of the 12 casinos shut down. About 7,000 jobs were lost. His intervention went so badly that the state legislature is considering whether to revoke Atlantic City’s last best lifeline, its state-sanctioned monopoly on gambling. The mayor — a fellow Republican, exasperated with Christie — is considering municipal bankruptcy. Christie’s decision to intervene here reflects

his style of governing: Confident. Pugnacious. Braggadocious. And sometimes unwilling to acknowledge the limits of his power.”

-- **"How David Petraeus avoided felony charges and possible prison time," by Adam Goldman:** "The Justice Department has never discussed how it reached its decision to accept a plea on the lesser charge. But six current and former U.S. officials, as well as others familiar with the case, provided the first detailed look at the internal debates and wrangling with Petraeus's lawyers that took place before the retired four-star general entered his guilty plea ... As part of the agreement, Petraeus admitted that he improperly removed and retained highly sensitive information in eight personal notebooks that he gave to [Paula] Broadwell. The Justice Department said the information, if disclosed, could have caused 'exceptionally grave damage.' Officials said the notebooks contained code words for secret intelligence programs, the identities of covert officers, and information about war strategy and deliberative discussions with the National Security Council. The plea agreement left some in the Justice Department angry, particularly at the FBI, and some agents have argued privately that it will hamper future efforts to secure prison terms in leak cases. But others in the government defended the deal as the only viable conclusion to a case in which a successful prosecution on the more serious charges was far from certain. **'Nobody was going to be happy with the outcome,' a former Justice Department official said.** 'There was nothing about this case that was typical.'"

-- **"Booming health care costs and growing deficits create budget headache for Republicans," by Kelsey Snell:** "Congressional Republicans have promised to include deep spending cuts in their upcoming budget proposals and new data showing rising federal health care costs and a looming deficit increase will likely add to conservatives hunger for big funding reductions. Federal health care costs are expected to jump to \$936 billion in 2016, outpacing the \$882 billion projected spending on Social Security, according to a report released Monday by the Congressional Budget Office. ... Republicans will likely use the latest data from CBO to justify proposing deep spending cuts to mandatory spending programs, but GOP leaders could face some tough questions when it comes to how much to provide for the 12 annual spending bills both Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell want to move early this year.

... Republican leaders agreed late last year to a deal that allows for \$30 billion in new discretionary spending in fiscal 2017, an agreement that continues to rankle conservatives, particularly in the House.”

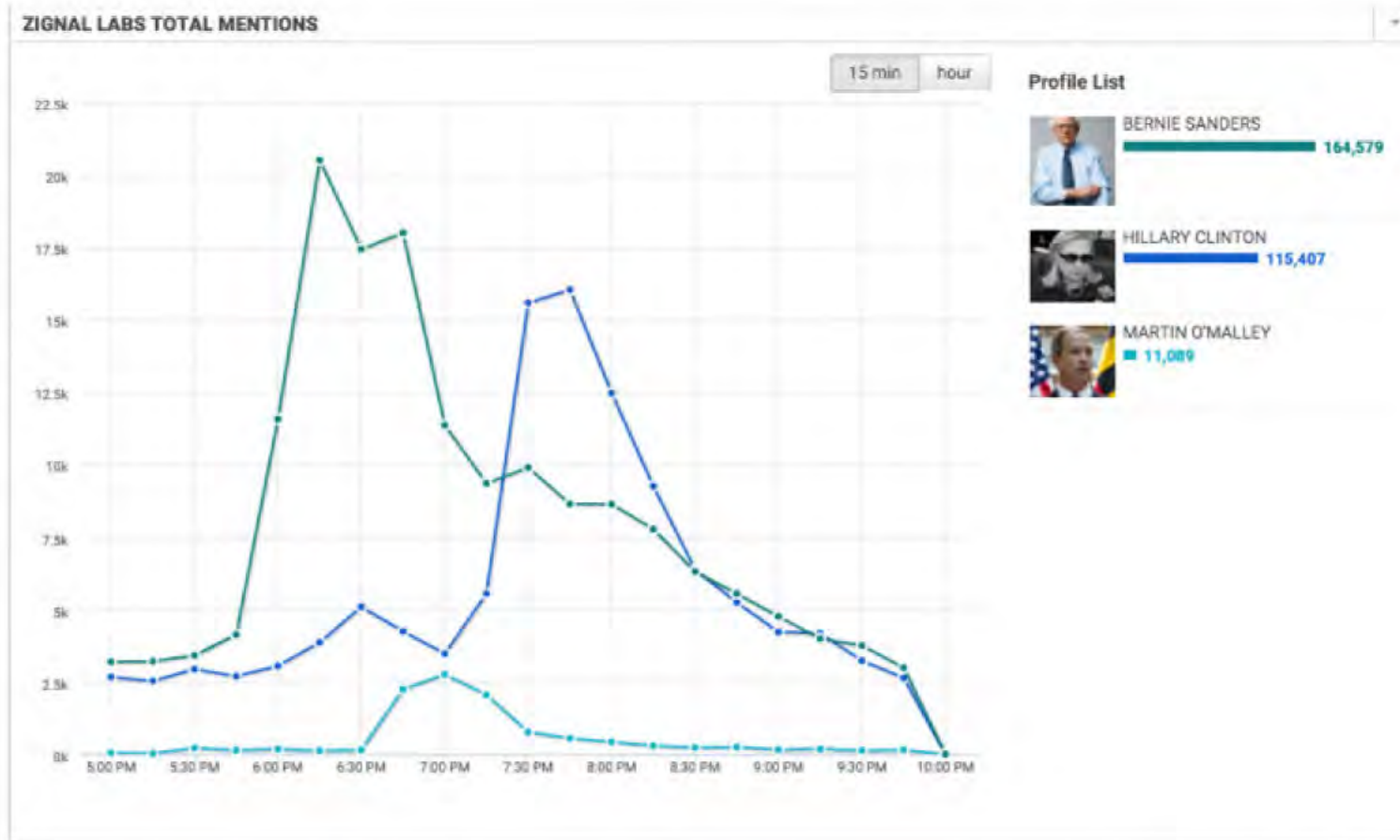
Concepcion Picciotto, the protester who maintained a peace vigil outside the White House for more than three decades, a demonstration widely considered to be the longest-running act of political protest in U.S. history, **died yesterday** at a housing facility operated by N Street Village, a nonprofit that supports homeless women in Washington. She was believed to be 80. She had recently suffered a fall. Picciotto — a Spanish immigrant known to many as “Connie” or “Conchita” — was the primary guardian of the anti-nuclear-proliferation vigil stationed along Pennsylvania Avenue.



Picciotto in 2010 (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)





SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— **ZIGNAL VISUAL: Sanders got more mentions online during last night's Democratic forum:** Here's a total mentions chart during the event on CNN, via our analytics partners at Zignal Labs. Note how Sanders mentions spike during his time with Chris Cuomo, while Clinton's mentions did as well. The Sanders spike was bigger than the Clinton bounce:



Both candidates were able to drive their own coverage during the town hall, as these lists of their top tweets illustrate:

POPULAR TWEETS BY RETWEET COUNT

	'Socialist' programs from FDR and LBJ: ✓ Social Security ✓ Minimum Wage ✓ Medicare and Medicaid ✓ 40-hour work week #DemTownHall @BernieSanders - 4 hours ago	2,093
	I #StandWithPP against those who want to take away a woman's right to an abortion. https://t.co/kHVLIn3tfQ @BernieSanders - 4 hours ago	
	Experience is important, but so is judgement. #DemTownHall @BernieSanders - 3 hours ago	1,555
	Under Bernie's plan, the average family would pay less for an entire year of health care than they currently do in a month. #DemTownHall @BernieSanders - 3 hours ago	1,467
	There has been a massive redistribution of wealth. The problem is it has gone in the wrong direction. #DemTownHall https://t.co/5ViCUCST64 @BernieSanders - 3 hours ago	1,173
	Anybody in this country, regardless of their income, should be able to go get a higher education. #DemTownHall @BernieSanders - 4 hours ago	1,127



We don't make America greater by insulting, demeaning, and demonizing our communities. We're better than that. [#DemTownHall](#)
[@HillaryClinton](#) · 2 hours ago

917



"Every person in this country deserves to be treated with respect." — Hillary [#DemTownHall](#)
[@HillaryClinton](#) · 2 hours ago

748



Heartbreaking. Families who need clean, safe drinking water shouldn't have to be afraid to ask for help. <https://t.co/GbwVeRP4hf> · H
[@HillaryClinton](#) · 4 hours ago

669



"I have a 40-year record of going after inequality." —Hillary [#DemTownHall](#)
[@HillaryClinton](#) · 2 hours ago

525



"We've got to do everything we possibly can not to let the Republicans rip away our progress and take us backwards." —Hillary [#DemTownHall](#)
[@HillaryClinton](#) · 2 hours ago

513



"Military action should be the last resort—not the first choice." —Hillary [#DemTownHall](#)
[@HillaryClinton](#) · 2 hours ago

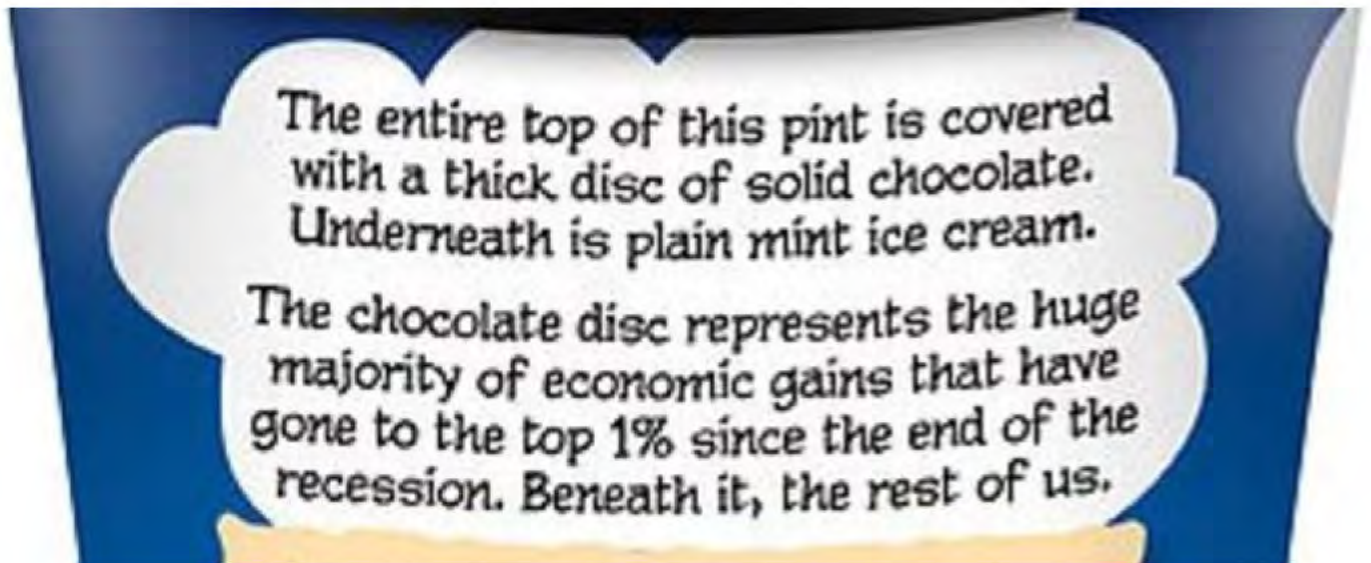
487

— Pictures of the day:

Ben Cohen, a co-founder of Ben & Jerry's, unveiled a new ice cream flavor in honor of Sanders. It's called "Bernie's Yearning":



Here's the flavor description:



NASA released this photo of a star cluster known as Trumpler 14, calling it "one of the highest concentrations of massive, luminous stars in the entire Milky Way":



House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) stopped at Randy's Donuts near Los Angeles on his way back home to Bakersfield, Calif.:



NASA's Earth Observatory posted this photo of the D.C. region from space:



One snow lover got creative using the wind on the National Mall:

Brett Weinstein



Brett Weinstein

Mark Zuckerberg posted this photo in honor of his first day back at work after paternity leave. He asked, "What should I wear?":



— **Tweets of the day:**

Watch out -- Hugh Hewitt might get creative with his outfit at the next debate: